Nursing Care Center Accreditation

COVID-19 Q & A Webinar

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Panel

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Recovery and The Joint Commission
The Joint Commission return to survey activity

- In addition to conducting accreditation surveys and certification reviews, we have been advocating for the safety and wellbeing of healthcare workers at the highest levels of policy making.

- We want to assure you that we want to work together to reduce your risk and ours during the onsite survey process.
When and how will survey activity resume?

- Survey activity has been ongoing
- Onsite survey activity is limited to low-risk areas
- **Low risk criteria**
  - Number of COVID-19 cases are lower and less impact to organizations
  - the # cases/thousand population and new cases within the county
  - Determination that our staff can travel to that area safely and find appropriate accommodations.
- In addition, your AE will contact you to determine your readiness.
- We are aware that surveys are past their due dates, CMS is also aware – we will conduct those surveys when we are able to do so.
- Prioritized initials and past due organizations. We will also be looking for organizations due in the next few months that meet the low-risk criteria and are currently ready for survey.
What instructions have been provided to our field staff?

- **Follow CDC guidelines**
- Do not travel if you are sick
- Do not travel if you have been in close contact with known or suspected COVID-19 individuals
- When traveling wear a mask/face covering
- **Required to wear a medical mask and eye protection during all onsite surveys and follow the organizations’ guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the surveyor as required by their policy**
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
What has changed about the survey process?

The survey process and its components will remain the same however here are some guidelines for the survey:

- Limiting the number of individuals in group sessions
- The use of audio or videoconferencing could be incorporated to safely expand the number of attendees for sessions
- Use of masks will be a routine practice
- Maximize the use of technology to eliminate the number of people needed to sit directly next to an individual for an extended period of time. (For example, screen sharing or projecting medical records)
- Interviewing patients and staff by telephone
- Driving in separate cars to secondary locations when applicable
Survey process - continued

- We will NOT enter at risk or confirmed COVID-19 rooms
- We will avoid visiting a unit with any confirmed COVID-19 patients when possible.
- Limited physical review of high risk and aerosol generating procedures
- Consider using a simulation and/or distant review of certain activities/procedures
- Practice social/physical distancing during the survey
- Follow “PPE” and risk reduction strategies as established by the CDC
- Limit attendance at group sessions e.g., opening, briefings, system tracers
- Limiting observers or scribes to avoid additional exposure during the survey
What will be the focus of survey activities?

During the opening conference we will have a discussion with you about the impact of the current pandemic and your organization’s response

• We will discuss Infection Control, Emergency Management, and the role of Leadership

• The focus of our survey will not be the timeframe of the public health emergency but the current situation within your organization
Additional information

- We would ask that you do not provide additional avoid dates due to the difficulty in scheduling surveys – avoid dates already submitted will be honored to the extent we can do so
- Offsite/virtual activity continues to expand
- We will work with you to ensure you are ready and prepared.
Offsite (Virtual) Survey

• **Offsite (virtual) survey**— may be scheduled for some organizations who meet eligibility criteria
• Eligible organizations will be contacted via a Qualtrics survey or other outreach from our staff (phone call or email) to confirm their ability to participate
• Offsite event is a combination of:
  • Secure Zoom technology for the survey and facility review
  • Use of a secure SharePoint site for document upload to review pre-survey
• A dry run test of technology will be conducted prior to the event
• Most offsite events will have a follow-up onsite event.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will surveyors come to facilities that are on contingency basis for PPE conservation?
Have The Joint Commission and CMS agreed on virtual triennial surveys?
Will surveys continue even if organizations are positive for COVID-19?
Infection Control
What are the recommendations/guidelines for discontinuing isolation precautions for COVID+ residents including those residents with lingering symptoms?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Can healthcare workers provide care for both COVID recovered residents and residents who have never been infected with COVID in the same cohorted assignment?

Resources:
Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes
Considerations for the Public Health Response to COVID-19 in Nursing Homes

COVID-19 Long Term Care Facility Guidance April 2, 2020
Pre-Submitted Questions

If there is a newly identified case of COVID-19 in a resident or staff member at our facility, do we need to quarantine the facility and if so, for how long?

Resource:

CMS 1135
Waivers
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is there an end date for the waivers?

How long will all of these waivers be in effect? It is difficult to keep track of exact timing with multitudes of information coming out in waves.
The Department of Health and Human Services released a statement on Thursday, 01/07/21 stating the PHE was extended.

The renewal effective date is Sunday, 01/31/21 and will last for 90 days.

This is the fourth extension of the PHE.

1135 Waivers will remain in effect during the declared PHE.
Pre-Submitted Questions

How long will the current waivers for CNAs remain in effect?
What are the documentation expectations that The Joint Commission will be looking for when waivers have been activated?
Looking for more information on CMS 1135 Waivers?

Accredited organizations can learn more by visiting Resources and Tools > Tools > Learn More in their Joint Commission Connect© extranet site.
More Questions and Answers
Resources

- COVID Resources
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/

- Standards Interpretation
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/
Thank You

We support your efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hope to provide helpful resources